

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1 to 15 is noted with appreciation. Non-elected claims 16 to 20 have been canceled. Applicant will rely upon the protection afforded by 35 USC 121 for any divisional application filed to that subject matter.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has also been revised to eliminate legal phraseology.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of the priority document and for listing references provided with an Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 09/994,710

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Wendel", written over a horizontal line.

Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

November 6, 2003
Date

CAW/ch

Attorney Docket No.: HEIW:012

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

1421 Prince Street

Suite 210

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805

Telephone: (703) 739-0220